

# the condition of education 2006



## INDICATOR 39

### School Violence and Safety

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# School Characteristics and Climate

## School Violence and Safety

*From 1992 through 2003, there was a general decline in the rate at which students ages 12–18 were victims of theft and violent crime at school.*

Theft and violence that occur at school<sup>1</sup> can lead to a disruptive and threatening environment, physical injury, and emotional stress, all of which can be obstacles to student achievement (Elliott, Hamburg, and Williams 1998). To measure the prevalence of theft and violence in our nation's schools, this indicator examines nonfatal crime rates per 1,000 students, ages 12–18, from 1992 through 2003. Nonfatal crime includes theft and all violent crime; all violent crime includes serious violent crimes (rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and simple assault.

From 1992 through 2003, the rate of crime against students at school declined by 53 percent for theft (from 95 to 45 crimes per 1,000 students) and by 42 percent for all violent crime (from 48 to 28 crimes per 1,000 students) (see supplemental table 39-1). There was no measurable change in the total nonfatal rate of crime against students at school from 2002 to 2003. The rates for these crimes, from 1992 through 2003, also decreased for the time when students were away from school. In each of the years observed, the rates for serious violent

crime were lower when students were at school than when they were away from school.

In 2003, a greater percentage of high school-age students (ages 15–18) than middle school-age students (ages 12–14) were victims of crime away from school (see supplemental table 39-2). However, no measurable difference was found between high school-age and middle school-age students in the rates at which they were victims of crime at school. The rates of violent crime at school, especially serious violent crime, were higher for urban students than for suburban students. No measurable difference was found between suburban and urban students in their rates of violent crime away from school. A greater percentage of students from high-income households than students from low-income households<sup>2</sup> were victims of theft at school.

In 2003, a greater percentage of White and Black students than Hispanic students were victims of theft at school. No measurable difference was found between males and females in the rates at which they were victims of theft at school. However, a greater percentage of males than females were victims of violent crime at school.

<sup>1</sup> "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to and from school.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in this context, high-income households are households with incomes of \$75,000 or more per year. Low-income households are those with incomes of less than \$15,000 per year.

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), table 2.1. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2003.

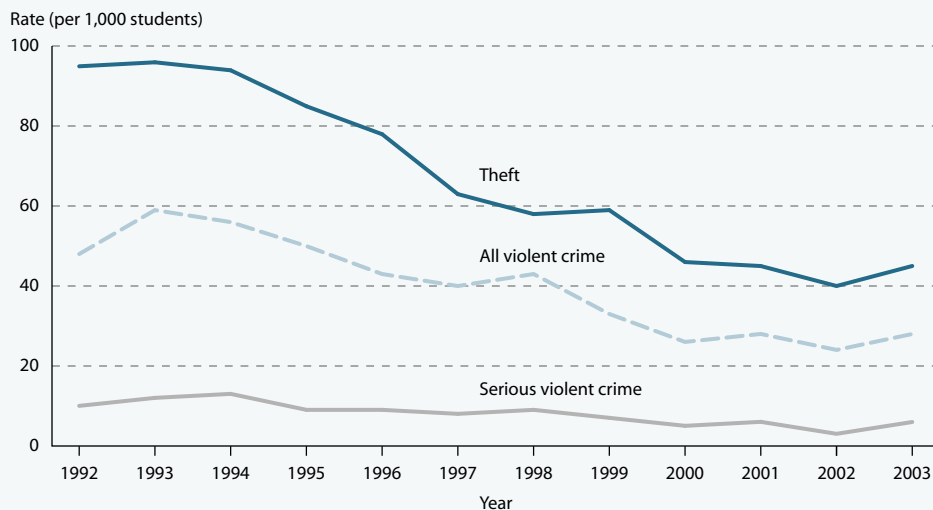
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Supplemental Notes 1, 3  
Supplemental Tables 39-1,  
39-2

Elliott, Hamburg, and  
Williams 1998



**TRENDS IN VICTIMIZATION: Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school or on the way to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2003**



## School Violence and Safety

**Table 39-1. Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2003**

Location and year	Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
At school				
1992	144	95	48	10
1993	155	96	59	12
1994	150	94	56	13
1995	135	85	50	9
1996	121	78	43	9
1997	102	63	40	8
1998	101	58	43	9
1999	92	59	33	7
2000	72	46	26	5
2001	73	45	28	6
2002	64	40	24	3
2003	73	45	28	6
Away from school				
1992	138	68	71	32
1993	139	69	70	35
1994	129	60	69	33
1995	119	61	58	23
1996	117	62	55	26
1997	117	58	59	24
1998	95	46	48	21
1999	78	39	39	18
2000	74	40	34	14
2001	61	33	28	11
2002	55	29	26	11
2003	60	28	32	12

NOTE: Total nonfatal crime includes violent crime and theft. Violent crime includes serious violent crime and simple assault. Serious violent crime includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to and from school. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey.

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), table 2.1. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2003.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table 39-2. Rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2003**

Student characteristic	At school				Away from school			
	Total	Theft	Violent crime		Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>
Sex								
Male	85	45	40	9	69	29	40	16
Female	61	45	15	2!	52	28	24	9
Age								
12–14	77	44	33	8	41	21	20	6
15–18	69	46	23	4	79	35	43	18
Race/ethnicity <sup>1</sup>								
White	75	48	27	4	65	28	36	14
Black	87	54	34	7!	57	30	27	13
Hispanic	53	30	23	6!	50	23	27	9
Other	43	25!	18!	5!	52	38	14!	2!
Location								
Urban	87	49	38	10	65	33	32	11
Suburban	71	45	26	5	53	25	28	13
Rural	59	40	19	2!	75	31	44	13
Household income								
Less than \$15,000	66	28	37	10!	65	29	35	13!
\$15,000–29,999	87	45	42	14	89	45	44	12
\$30,000–49,999	71	44	27	8	58	27	32	19
\$50,000–74,999	76	53	23	4!	69	30	39	9!
\$75,000 or more	83	61	22	2!	42	22	19	6!

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

<sup>1</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Other includes Asian, Pacific Islander (including Native Hawaiian), and American Indian (including Alaska Native). Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: Total nonfatal crime includes violent crime and theft. Violent crime includes serious violent crime and simple assault. Serious violent crime includes rape, sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault. "At school" includes inside the school building, on school property, or on the way to and from school. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the National Crime Victimization Survey.

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), tables 2.2 and 2.3. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2003.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table S39.** Standard errors for the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school or on the way to or from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2003

Year	Theft	Violent crime	
		All violent crime	Serious violent crime
1992	5.8	4.0	1.7
1993	4.4	3.4	1.4
1994	3.8	2.9	1.3
1995	3.6	2.7	1.0
1996	3.6	2.6	1.0
1997	3.3	2.6	1.0
1998	3.3	3.1	1.7
1999	3.4	2.4	1.0
2000	3.0	2.1	0.8
2001	2.9	2.2	0.9
2002	2.7	2.0	0.7
2003	2.7	2.3	1.0

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), table S2.1. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2003.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table S39-1. Standard errors for the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime: 1992–2003**

Location and year	Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
At school				
1992	7.2	5.8	4.0	1.7
1993	5.7	4.4	3.4	1.4
1994	4.9	3.8	2.9	1.3
1995	4.6	3.6	2.7	1.0
1996	4.6	3.6	2.6	1.0
1997	4.3	3.3	2.6	1.0
1998	4.8	3.3	3.1	1.7
1999	4.3	3.4	2.4	1.0
2000	3.8	3.0	2.1	0.8
2001	3.9	2.9	2.2	0.9
2002	3.5	2.7	2.0	0.7
2003	3.5	2.7	2.3	1.0
Away from school				
1992	7.1	4.8	4.9	3.2
1993	5.4	3.7	3.7	2.5
1994	4.5	3.0	3.2	2.1
1995	4.3	3.0	2.9	1.8
1996	4.5	3.2	2.9	1.9
1997	4.7	3.2	3.2	2.0
1998	4.8	3.3	3.1	1.7
1999	3.9	2.6	2.6	1.7
2000	3.9	2.8	2.5	1.5
2001	3.5	2.5	2.2	1.3
2002	3.2	2.2	2.1	1.3
2003	3.1	2.0	2.5	1.4

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), table S2.1. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1992–2003.

## School Violence and Safety

**Table S39-2. Standard errors for the rate of nonfatal crime against students ages 12–18 at school and away from school per 1,000 students, by type of crime and selected student characteristics: 2003**

Student characteristic	At school				Away from school			
	Total	Theft	Violent crime		Total	Theft	Violent crime	
			All violent crime	Serious violent crime			All violent crime	Serious violent crime
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Sex								
Male	4.9	3.5	3.7	1.6	4.4	2.7	3.7	2.2
Female	4.2	3.6	2.2	0.8	3.8	2.7	2.8	1.6
Age								
12–14	4.8	3.5	3.4	1.5	3.4	2.3	2.6	1.3
15–18	4.4	3.5	2.7	1.0	4.7	3.0	3.9	2.4
Race/ethnicity								
White	4.3	3.3	2.8	1.0	3.9	2.5	3.3	1.9
Black	8.3	6.4	5.7	2.5	6.6	4.8	5.1	3.5
Hispanic	5.9	4.3	4.3	2.1	5.6	3.7	4.6	2.6
Other	10.2	7.7	7.4	4.0	11.1	9.5	6.4	2.4
Location								
Urban	6.3	4.6	4.6	2.3	5.4	3.7	4.2	2.3
Suburban	4.4	3.4	2.8	1.1	3.7	2.5	3.0	2.0
Rural	6.2	5.1	3.9	1.3	7.1	4.4	6.1	3.1
Household income								
Less than \$15,000	8.8	5.7	7.4	3.6	8.7	5.8	7.2	4.3
\$15,000–29,999	8.3	5.9	6.4	3.6	8.4	5.9	6.6	3.3
\$30,000–49,999	6.7	5.2	4.6	2.4	6.0	4.0	5.0	3.8
\$50,000–74,999	7.5	6.3	4.5	1.8	7.1	4.6	6.0	2.8
\$75,000 or more	6.8	5.7	3.8	1.0	4.7	3.4	3.5	1.9

SOURCE: DeVoe, J.F., Peter, K., Noonan, M., Snyder, T.D., and Baum, K. (2005). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2005* (NCES 2006-001/NCJ 210697), tables S2.2 and S2.3. Data from U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, School Crime Supplement (SCS) to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 2003.